



# THE COMMUNICATOR

Grant County Employee Newsletter

Volume 3, Issue 3  
July 2005

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## Guest Columnist Tom Taber, Veterans Service Officer



Wisconsin Statutes, Chapter 45 require each county to have a County Veteran Service Officer (CVSO). The office came into existence around 1936. By statute, the CVSO is to be an advocate on behalf of veterans and their dependents. Although we all deal with veterans, each CVSO handles the job in a manner appropriate for the individual county.

I am a single person office, with part-time coverage from Janet Graney, who also works for the Zoning and Sanitation offices. There are approximately 4,000 veterans in Grant County. The US Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) indicates that just over \$9 Million in benefits come to this county each year. Another Million or so comes in from the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA) programs.

The office assists veterans in applying for a wide variety of programs. These programs include medical benefits, educational benefits, financial programs, pensions,

burial benefits and transportation issues.

Clients include individuals who have had military service in the active duty military, National Guard or Reserves. We also assist family members of those veterans and, in some cases active duty families. Veterans' age ranges between 18 and 97 at the present time. We assist veterans who had combat and non-combat service, volunteers, draftees and those who have made a career in the military.

CVSO's assist veterans in obtaining medical and military records in order to obtain care for injuries or illness developed during or aggravated by active duty. There is also a compensation program that provides a monthly check depending on the severity of the disability. Veterans who served during a war-time period can apply for a pension that is need based. Spouses of deceased veterans may also receive compensation or pension benefits.

The VA provides educational benefits under several programs. There are separate programs for active duty and reserve forces as well as a Vocational Rehabilitation benefit. Educational benefits are available to dependents of veterans rated

100% disabled or who have died as a result of their service.

Medical care, including medications can be provided to most veterans through the VA. Those individuals with one day of active duty before 1985 can use the health care system. Those on active duty after 1985 must have at least 24 months service. There are health insurance programs available to military retirees and families of 100% disabled veterans.

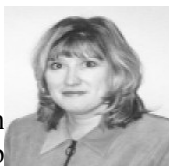
The Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs offers educational grants, home and personal loan programs as well as emergency financial assistance. Most of these programs are funded through a Veterans' Trust Fund, so there are very few tax dollars involved. Eligibility for WDVA benefits is based on need in most cases and the veteran must have established Wisconsin residency.

In Grant County the CVSO also provides the flag holders and flags to decorate veterans graves on Memorial Day. There are 120 cemeteries in the county that have at least one veteran burial.



## News from Personnel

Joyce Roling; Grant County Personnel Director



•All Grant County **labor contracts** are now available on the Grant County Website [www.grantcounty.org](http://www.grantcounty.org). All job postings available to the outside are also on the website.

•**Employee Handbook** updates are being printed. You will receive replacement pages for your current handbook. Please contact your Supervisor if you need a new one.

•Various **training** topics will be presented by the Personnel Department on July 13th and October 20th. The presentation topics and times are as follows:

8:30 a.m. to 9:15 a.m. Sexual Harassment / Workplace Violence  
9:30 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. FMLA/Workers Compensation/County Benefits in Review  
10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Civil Rights Compliance

Please let your supervisor know if you are interested in attending any of these training sessions. The sessions are held in the County Board Room and reserved seating is appreciated by calling 723-2540.

Anyone wishing to have a specific subject discussed in a future newsletter may contact Joyce Roling at 723-2045.



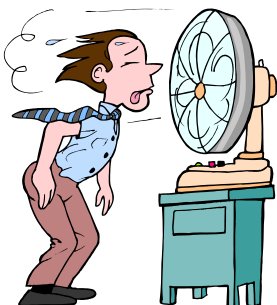
## The Heat is On

Submitted by Jeff Kindrai, Director / Health Officer



### TIPS TO PREVENT HEAT-RELATED ILLNESS

- If possible, spend time in an air-conditioned environment.
- Limit strenuous activity
- Consume extra fluids, including fruit juices & avoid alcohol consumption
- Evaluate possible effects of medications and heat or sun
- Actively monitor for early warning signs of dehydration, heat exhaustion and heat stroke. All staff should know the symptoms of heat related illness and



when to contact emergency assistance if conditions deteriorate

### SYMPTOMS OF HEAT-RELATED ILLNESS AND WHAT TO DO

**Heat Cramps** - cramps or muscle spasms in the abdomen, arms or legs. **Solution:** Stop activity, cool down, drink clear juice or sports drink.

**Heat Exhaustion** - heavy sweating, paleness, muscle cramps, weakness, dizziness, headache, nausea, fainting. **Solution:** Cool down, seek medical attention if person has heart problems or high blood pressure.

**Heat Stroke** - extremely high body temperature, red, hot, dry skin, rapid pulse, throbbing headache, dizziness, nausea, confusion, unconsciousness. **Solution:** Call 911 and cool the victim with shower or hose until help arrives.

## Don't miss the 150th annual Grant County Fair August 21st thru August 28th

### Gate Admission:

Adults \$2; Children 12 and under Free  
Season Ticket \$5; *Free Parking*

### Mr. Ed's Magical Midway

Wed.— (5 p.m. to close) 50¢ rides + 1st 150 customers get stuffed animal  
Thu.— (4 to 10 p.m.) \$9 wristband + chance to win WI Dells package  
Fri.— (11 a.m. to 5 p.m.) \$9 wristband  
Fri. — (5 p.m. to close) buddy rides free with coupon & purchase of ticket  
Sat.— (11 a.m. to 4 p.m.) \$9 wristband includes "Mardi Gras" beads  
Sun.— (10 a.m. to noon) 10¢ rides  
Sun. — (noon to close) \$1 rides

### Grant County Raceway

Auto racing — 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday  
Tickets: Adult \$10; Sr. Citizen \$7;  
13-college with ID \$4; under 12 Free

### Jimmy Wayne with Malibu Storm

7:00 p.m. on Thursday  
Tickets: Advance \$15; Day of Show \$22

### Lyle Foley Band

3:30 p.m. & 6:00 p.m. on Friday

### Tractor & Truck Pull

6:30 p.m. on Friday  
Tickets: Adults \$7; 10 & under \$2 if accompanied by an adult

### Tri-State Tractor & Truck Pull & Dairyland Antique Tractor Pull

6:30 p.m. on Saturday  
Tickets: Adults \$7; 10 & under \$2 if accompanied by an adult

### Twinkle the Clown

11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday & Sunday

### Teen Dance

7:30 p.m. to 11 p.m. on Saturday

### Demolition Derby

1:30 & 7:00 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 28  
Tickets: Adults \$6; 10 & under \$2 if accompanied by an adult

### 4-H Exhibits

Be sure to check out the numerous exhibits that the 4-H groups have worked really hard to present for judging. The County's youth would love to be able to show you what they have accomplished!

**Have fun at the 150th  
Grant County Fair!**